

Socio-Legal NEWSLETTER

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A CRISIS IN SOCIO-LEGAL STUDIES?

Linda Mulcahy reviews the content of the Nuffield Report, published late last year, and urges colleagues to read, digest and debate its findings.

In November 2006 the Nuffield Foundation published its final report on *Law in the Real World: Improving our understanding of how law works*. This important document, written by three giants of the socio-legal community – Hazel Genn, Martin Partington and Sally Wheeler – raised a series of important questions about the state of empirical work on civil justice within our community which I suspect will continue to be debated for some time. In this discussion of the report I aim to summarise its key findings and achievements. In the spirit of debate which it calls for I also attempt to raise some questions about the assumptions it makes and its conclusions.

The work on which the report is based began in January 2004 when the Nuffield Foundation commenced its funding of an inquiry into concerns that the current generation of empirical researchers is not large enough to meet the existing opportunities and demand. Particular attention was drawn to the suggestion that many leading socio-legal researchers are due to retire in the next decade leaving an insufficient pool of 'robust' empiricists. The report had six main aims: to provide factual information about current capacity; to explore evidence about the apparent shortfall; to explain the cause of the problem; to bring together stakeholders to discuss these issues; to identify a range of solutions; and to make recommendations about what initiatives might be taken to address the problem.

The authors of the report quite rightly stress the complexity of the issue being addressed. They draw attention to the problems of attracting and funding a critical mass of socio-legal empiricists within institutions, the demands of fieldwork which can take one away from teaching and frustrate colleagues, the sparsity of training outlets for up-and-coming researchers and the constraints imposed on research activity by the RAE. Useful parallels are drawn with the state of research in the domain of criminology which would appear to be thriving by comparison and the fact that the Home Office has been more willing to invest in empirical research than the Department for Constitutional Affairs. The report concludes with a series of excellent recommendations about how these problems can be addressed including ring fencing of research funds, undergraduate and postgraduate empirical legal studies bursaries, post-doctoral scholarships; mid-career cross-disciplinary bursaries and career-change studentships. It also makes clear the ways in which key stakeholders such as Vice Chancellors and Heads of Law Schools and Learned Societies can play a part in addressing the problems identified.

Whilst I have no doubt of the validity of the concerns raised and solutions suggested there are other issues which have been left untouched by the report. The first concerns the state of socio-legal studies more generally. Whilst the report focused specifically on those within our community who undertake empirical research, I would argue that the state of health of the whole socio-legal community is also of relevance in this debate. From my position as one of the editors of *Social and Legal* ▶ p3

SLSA CO-SPONSORS BERLIN CONFERENCE

The joint Law and Society / Research Committee on the Sociology of Law conference to be held in Berlin in 2007 has provided a welcome opportunity for co-operation between a number of socio-legal organisations. The SLSA is pleased to be a co-sponsor of this event. We have been involved in this since the early stages of planning because the SLSA Executive Committee felt that it offered an ideal opportunity to reach out to the international socio-legal community and to encourage researchers from around the world to participate in SLSA activities.

The SLSA is now well-established as the leading socio-legal organisation in the UK, with over 600 members and a lively annual conference which attracts large numbers of socio-legal scholars, not only from the UK, but increasingly from the rest of the world. Our website provides a gateway for a huge range of material which is of interest to the socio-legal community, including links relating to specialist research areas, government departments and academic libraries and research institutes. It has recently undergone a major redesign and relaunch.

The theme of the Berlin conference – Law and Society in the 21st Century: Transformations, Resistances, Futures – is intended to encourage debate on the transformations that are redefining law and society in the new century. SLSA members are well-placed to contribute to this discussion and the conference will provide an opportunity for them not only to showcase their own work, but to meet other scholars in their field, and form friendships and networks which may continue long after the conference is over. Socio-legal scholarship in the UK is developing fast; every year sees additional SLSA conference streams devoted to new subject areas, reflecting intellectual and societal developments which have become the focus of research. SLSA members are at the forefront of academic scholarship across the socio-legal spectrum, and are increasingly interested in comparative and international aspects of their work. (For the latest information on Berlin 2007, see p3.)

The SLSA small grants scheme, in particular, has proved a fertile ground for international research. Many scholars have used the grants to support projects beyond the shores of the UK. In the last two years alone, grantholders have travelled to Poland, the USA, Mexico and Guatemala, and India. SLSA members do not have to be UK-based to apply for grants.

The SLSA welcomes overseas members and is keen to encourage socio-legal scholars to forge international links and networks which will be of value to them in expanding their own scholarship. The SLSA bulletin board and email network are ideal ways to communicate with like-minded academics.

For more information about these and other SLSA activities please contact Marie Selwood e m.selwood@tiscali.co.uk. For a full list of the benefits of SLSA membership, see p9. *Fiona Cownie*

SLSA at Kent: 3-5 April 2007

There are still a few places left for our annual conference, but hurry as they are going fast. The final date for booking is **25 March 2007** (although exceptions will be made if at all possible). To book your place visit: www.kent.ac.uk/law/slsa07.

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people . . .

At Southampton, **PROFESSOR NICK WIKLEY** has been appointed as a Specialist Adviser to the House of Commons Select Committee on Work and Pensions, which is conducting an inquiry into the current child support reform proposals. He is also part of a consortium, led by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen), which has recently won a major research contract from the Department of Work and Pensions. The research aims to capture the characteristics of separated parents and their attitudes towards child support provision, whether or not they are current CSA 'customers'. The research will be conducted during 2007 and the findings will be published in late 2007 or early 2008.

Congratulations to **DOREEN MCBARNET**, Professor of Socio-Legal Studies, University of Oxford, who was awarded a CBE for services to social sciences in this year's New Year's Honours List.

DR SIMON MACKENZIE has moved from the Centre for Criminological Research at Keele University to take up a Senior Research Fellowship at the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, University of Glasgow, Florentine House, 53 Hillhead Street, Glasgow G12 8QF.

PROFESSOR FOO CHECK TECK is the founding editor of the new journal: *Chinese Management Studies (CMS)* from Emerald Publishing. In the UK he is an Honorary Professor of Competitive Strategy at the University of St Andrews. He is currently based in Singapore where he is Associate Professor, System and Engineering Management at Nanyang Technological University, where he is pioneering work on artificial intelligence - AI modelling of judicial process involving medical expertise. As editor of *CMS* he warmly welcomes members to contribute papers related to any legal aspects of managing in China.

CAROLE WILLIS

Members of the SLSA will no doubt be saddened to learn of the death of **CAROLE WILLIS** at age 55 from melanoma. Carole, a maths graduate of Imperial College, was involved with the SLSA and, indeed, socio-legal studies from their earliest days. Carole began her career at the Home Office and, from 1988 to 2000, she was head of the Research Unit at the Law Society. Many of you will remember the blue-covered research reports that were produced in this period under Carole's direction, ensuring that the legal professions of England and Wales were extremely well-documented. Although the Law Society can be commended for creating such a unit, it was Carole's leadership, strategic awareness and charm that made it the success it was. In 2000, she returned to the Home Office where she remained until illness forced her retirement in 2006. In her second Home Office stint she was assistant director of research, development and statistics and also had responsibility for the career development of researchers there. Carole's clear sightedness and care for others will have made her excellent at both jobs.

Carole was a stalwart of ESRC postgraduate training exercises. To my knowledge she gave freely of her time for this from 1999 onwards and she may have been involved before that. Carole's funeral in November, which I attended on behalf of the SLSA and as a friend, was packed. A testament to her as an excellent colleague who was able to lead, manage and give confidence to those with whom she worked. She was funny, very elegant and fair-minded. She was immensely talented not only as a researcher and a statistician but as a musician. Her contribution to socio-legal studies and to the lives of those whose own touched hers cannot be overestimated.

Our thoughts are with her partner, Bill, and her daughter Faye.

Sally Wheeler

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e m.selwood@tiscali.co.uk. The next copy deadline is **Monday 28 May 2007**. The next publication date is **2 July 2007**.

Increase in student bursaries

This year the SLSA has been able to provide additional bursary funds for students to attend our annual conference. The bursary fund is made up of £1000 from the *Journal of Law and Society*, £1000 from Blackwells Publishing, £500 from *Social and Legal Studies* and £1000 of the SLSA's own money. The 2007 fund totalled £3500. We would like to thank all sponsors for their continued generosity.

Also in this newsletter . . .

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p14 *Studies* and a regular attendee at events organised by the SLSA, I would say that socio-legal studies in the UK is in a fairly healthy state. The SLSA conference is one of the largest gatherings of legal academics in the country and I see no shortage of really excellent multi-disciplinary research being undertaken and written up. This is relevant to the discussion prompted by the Nuffield Report for a number of reasons. Most importantly, I would argue that there are young scholars, in their twenties, thirties and forties, who are more confident than previous generations in critiquing and applying theories and approaches developed in disciplines other than the study of law. What this means is the problem of lack of capacity no longer involves a lack of interest in socio-legal approaches to law and legal phenomena. This adds a new dimension to the debate as it may be that those seeking to recruit to empirical work are no longer just competing with doctrinal or critical lawyers, but with socio-legal scholars who choose to approach their work through non-empirical routes. One of the stories behind the low rate of applications to funding bodies to do empirical work may be that there is a lack of sufficient capacity. Another may be that there is a lack of interest amongst socio-legal scholars in carrying out this type of project.

This leads me to the issue of whether one of the shortcomings of my generation has been a failure to ensure that the findings of empirical research always address the needs of the academy as well as those of policy makers. A good example can be drawn from the field of contract law. Some specialists in the field have long argued that we have enough socio-legal research on the use or non-use of contract law. What is called for instead is reflection on how empirical findings can help us to build a new jurisprudence of contract law which is more receptive to the norms and expectations of contracting parties. Implicit in this argument is another point which is pertinent to our understanding of the problem of capacity which is not raised in the report. In some areas of civil justice there may simply be too much empirical research or insufficiently reflexive work.

A recurrent theme in the Nuffield Report is the ability of empirical research to feed into the policy process by finding out how well a particularly regulatory framework or process is working. As much of my own work has focused on attempts to improve legislative and policy frameworks, I can hardly argue with this. Clearly, this can be important. But it is not the only function of empirical work. A constraint that all of us have felt as empirical researchers is the feeling of moving from one funded

project to the next without having time to reflect on the data collected and develop theory from it. Yet it is this vital part of each research project that helps us to put back into the academy and resist the pressure to become handmaidens of policy makers. There is much to be done within our own community in supporting the needs of early career researchers. But in my view we should also be exploring the extent to which funding bodies constrain the research agenda of the researcher and limit the scope for broader exploration or critique; both of which are so important to academics and allow us to mark out another type of contribution to society. This is a point which has been made elsewhere and much more eloquently. Its significance in the current context is that it can lead to empirical fatigue.

My final point relates to capacity building. The Nuffield Report makes much of the fact that the Oxford Centre for Socio-legal Studies produced a generation of highly skilled researchers. I was fortunate to spend four years at the centre and they were undoubtedly the most important of my career. Why then is the report so shy of arguing that funding bodies put their resources into supporting the establishment of another national centre which serves us all through training programmes, visiting fellowships and mentoring schemes? If, as it argues, the data collected demonstrate that there were no more than six socio-legal researchers at any one institution in the UK, then surely this bolder call is one important piece of the answer. There was a feeling in the 1980s that there was some resentment in the socio-legal community that so many of the ESRC's resources were centred on one institute. The argument was a good one. But time may have proved that it was flawed.

I urge those readers who have not yet read the Nuffield Report to do so. There is much to be gleaned from the data presented and the placing of these issues within a historical context. Most importantly, it has spurred us on to discuss these significant issues. My aim in this short piece has been to join with the authors of the report in calling for ongoing debate.

Linda Mulcahy is Anniversary Professor of Law at Birkbeck and a former chair of the SLSA. She will be chairing a session at the SLSA annual conference on the Nuffield Report in order to encourage further debate.

For a copy of *Law in the Real World* contact Lisa Penfold at [e lisa.penfold@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:lisa.penfold@ucl.ac.uk) or download it at [w www.ucl.ac.uk/laws/socio-legal/empirical/docs/inquiry_report.pdf](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/laws/socio-legal/empirical/docs/inquiry_report.pdf).

UPDATE ON BERLIN 2007

The international socio-legal meeting in Berlin on 26–29 July 2007 is drawing closer. The response to the Call for Participation was a powerful one: over 2000 submissions were received, and the meeting looks set to be a vibrant, exciting and stimulating event.

The meeting is co-sponsored by the SLSA (UK), the Law and Society Association, the Research Committee on Sociology of Law (International Sociological Association), the Japanese Association of Sociology of Law, the Vereinigung für Rechtssoziologie, and the Sociology of Law Section of the German Sociological Association.

The closing date for paper and panel proposals has passed, and the programme is now being formed. It should be available in late March. Registration for the conference is open until 9 July 2007, with reduced rates available for those who register before 1 May 2007.

The Graduate Student Activities (GSA) are a series of events for postgraduate students. The overall theme will be Building Dialogue in Socio-Legal Studies – a dialogue among scholars of different methodological and regional/intellectual traditions, and between scholars and those they study, about

the relation between socio-legal studies and politics. Although the deadline for SLSA bursaries for this has passed, all postgraduate students can participate with advanced registration and a small fee (US\$5). Events begin with an informal social for postgraduates on the Thursday evening. On the afternoon of Friday 27 July there will be a panel discussion amongst invited international scholars, followed by small group discussions and workshops in which postgraduates can discuss their own research. During the weekend there will be workshops on getting published and getting a job, plus a chance to meet informally with established academics working in the field of your research. The full programme is available on the LSA website.

Participants are also strongly encouraged to register as early as possible for hotel accommodation. There are many accommodation options for meeting attendees in Berlin from hostels to five-star hotels. Special rates have been negotiated for attendees using the promo term 'Law & Society'. Please note that for each hotel there are a limited number of rooms available at the conference rate.

For all details of the event and the accommodation available, go to [w www.lawandsociety.org/ann_mtg/am07/call](http://www.lawandsociety.org/ann_mtg/am07/call).

Bronwen Morgan

SLSA POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE, BRISTOL

The SLSA's most successful postgraduate conference to date was held at the Wills Memorial Building, University of Bristol in January. The event was heavily subsidised; once delegates arrived, all sessions, accommodation and subsistence was provided by the SLSA and the academics from Bristol and colleagues from other institutions generously donated their time. Nicola Corkin looks back on the event which was attended by more than 50 students.

When coming up the hill towards the University of Bristol, Wills Memorial Building, I was very much reminded of the representation of Isengard in *The Lord of the Rings*. The grim tower, filled with knowledge and wisdom, overlooking the surrounding area – fortunately the SLSA postgraduate conference did not turn out to be a meeting with Saruman. Even if the first meeting turned into a deep philosophical search for truth on what is socio-legal research – which we (I can't speak for other groups) then decided to leave undefined! This was then followed by considerations on ethics in research, which tided us over to dinner. There, some of us turned back into ordinary students, discussing our research, our universities, our

cultures and other issues of similar non-importance. Some truly upheld the academic tradition by finagling an additional bottle of wine – not to mention some raucous debate on climate change and 'political bisexuals'. Afterwards, when our music requests had been rejected by the DJ, we found our way home, with some diversions, to our own beds.

The next day dawned bright and full of anticipation and it proved to be, without a doubt, one of the most useful days of my time as a postgraduate student. Not only is it incredibly useful to be able to discuss methodology with others and learn from their mistakes and experiences but, furthermore, it is invaluable to be told, finally, what one needs to consider when giving a conference paper, or what needs to be done in order to get yourself published. How does this whole, elusive, job-hunting thing work in the academic world? And how does one actually write a research proposal? Lastly, it was incredibly useful to discuss one's own research with others – who might be doing something similar . . . or not. What is their take on your work, what ideas do they have? How can they help you on your quest to achieving your PhD? And we might even have found some companions who will be there for at least part of the way.

Nicola Corkin, University of Birmingham
Our next postgraduate conference will be hosted by the University of Hull in early January 2007. Details available nearer the time.

LIARS IN PUBLIC SPACES

In the wake of recent political developments, Tony Bradney wonders how our current law students will perform if called to public service in the future.

The fact that so many cabinet ministers are lawyers ought to be a matter for quiet satisfaction for those working in university law schools. A slight smugness might even be expected. Instead, we are embarrassed. Even failing first-year law students have a small grasp of the notion of the rule of law: a few of its basic elements have entered their consciousness. But Government ministers, whom law schools have certified as being learned in the law, now vie with each other to display their ignorance of any such idea.

Ignoring the rule of law now seems to be settled Government policy. The catalogue grows by the day; everything is permissible. Attempt to deny immigrants and asylum seekers access to the courts. Invade countries in pursuit of regime change. Suspend investigation of a crime because you claim it is in the national interest to do so; and have cabinet ministers publicly criticise police enquiries that get too close to Downing Street. Demand that judges meet ministers to discuss how the Government might best pursue a war on terror (a war that is not in fact a war) without any tiresome interventions by those who might care about concepts like legality. Create new offences and new powers that are so vague as to be applied to almost anybody for almost any reason.

This new political dispensation is not the result of evil intentions; a sinister desire to create a police state. Instead, it is the result of a moral bankruptcy that 'lives in the real world', has to make 'pragmatic decisions' and 'needs to think about the national interest'. In the real world, it seems, you learn about the rule of law in your first-year public law course, write about it at great length in your examinations and then grow up and invade Iraq. In the real world, you learn about the fundamental importance of access to the courts, decry those foreign countries that do not have it and then reduce legal aid so that the courts are there but few can use them. In the real world, the exigencies of the moment are all that matter. Once, as a student, you learnt about a history of hard-won liberties. Now, as a minister, you find that they can be snipped away one by one in pursuit of media headlines. In the real world, you begin by making minor

moral compromises and end up with slippery evasions that seek to avoid any responsibility for any action.

There are lessons for law schools and universities in the failure of the present Government. First, we need to be clear about what are the really important things that law students have to learn and what are those matters that are less essential. The real foundations of legal knowledge are not those things that preoccupy the Bar or the Law Society. Whether a student understands the mysteries of promissory estoppel is far less important than an understanding of why the rule of law matters. Employability skills are of far less consequence than knowing how to behave properly. Knowing why treating everyone equally under the law is vital and why it applies as much to Government ministers as to anyone else is inherent in a basic grasp of legal knowledge; PDPs are not. If Government ministers, some of whom not only studied law but also taught it, do not know this, what hope is there for the rest of our students?

Secondly, there is the question of the model we ourselves offer to our students. The charge against the Government is that it lacks integrity in its policies and pursues short-term goals even when they are at the expense of major principles. What else do *we* do when we respond obediently to every dictat about the latest way in which we should teach, administer or research, no matter how contradictory, unreasonable or undesirable they are? What moral example do academics offer to their students if they cannot articulate and stand up for principles that are basic to their vocation? Is it surprising that our students go out believing that ethics are optional?

SLSA subscriptions reminder

SLSA subscriptions are due for renewal on **1 July 2007**. The rates have been frozen again for the seventh year running – that is, free for students for one year, thereafter £10 for students and £30 for non-students. Student members who have completed their studies are reminded that they should upgrade to the full membership fee. Plus, new members joining now can get up to three months' membership free as they won't have to renew until July 2008. **Note:** if you change institution, contact membership secretary Lisa Glennon with your new details [e l.gennon@qub.ac.uk](mailto:l.gennon@qub.ac.uk). Full details about benefits of memberships are on p9.

SLSA SMALL GRANT SCHEME UPDATE

The scheme has completed another successful year awarding £8000 to support socio-legal research. Here some of the 2006–07 cohort report on their projects. In the next issue, we will publish further reports and details of the latest grantholders.

Cohabitation and the Law Commission's Consultation Paper

Dr Simone Wong, Kent Law School, £1500

In 2003, a group of academics from Kent Law School at the University of Kent and other UK academic institutions (eg UCL, Queen Mary London, and Exeter, Keele, Warwick and Westminster Universities) formed a cohabitation network to hold the first of a series of cohabitation workshops at Kent. The aim of the workshops is to provide space for discussion on a range of issues relating to the governance of cohabitation and other household-sharing relationships. Two workshops were held at Kent: one in June 2003 and another in September 2005 (under the joint auspices of Kent Law School and the AHRC Centre for Law, Gender and Sexuality). Due to the encouraging response to these events, there was unanimous support for a further workshop to be held after the publication, on 31 May 2006, of the Law Commission consultation paper, *Cohabitation: the financial consequences of relationship breakdown* (No 179). This would enable the group to consider and discuss the paper and the implications, both legal and fiscal, of the Law Commission's proposals for all cohabitants (opposite and same-sex) with a view to drafting a group response.

With the aid of an SLSA small grant, a workshop was held at Kent on 2 September 2006 and academics from various UK academic institutions (Edinburgh, Exeter, Kent, Warwick, West of England, Westminster and UCL) were invited as discussants. The participants included a member of the Law Commission 'Property, family and trust' team and two students were also involved.

The 2006 workshop discussion focused on broadly three areas: the eligibility of cohabiting relationships; the framework and types of remedies to be awarded to eligible cohabitants; and the scope for and legal treatment of cohabitation contracts. There was clearly a very wide, and sometimes disparate, range of views expressed by the participants. However, all expressed the view that the Law Commission's current review of cohabitation is to be welcomed. There were nevertheless rather mixed views about the scope of the review and also concerns about some of the proposals made in the consultation paper. While all participants understood the nature of the exercise as contained in the consultation paper and the Law Commission's reasons for focusing on only cohabiting opposite-sex and same-sex relationships, there were concerns about the remit being too narrow, serving to obscure and marginalise some fundamental issues which cross-cut this area in relation to couple-based relationships, married and unmarried. The majority of the participants felt that the issue of legal reform ought to be looked at as a whole: there should be a review of marriage alongside cohabiting couple-based relationships as well as other forms of intimate relationships, sexual and non-sexual.

A group response was submitted to the Law Commission on 29 September 2006, a copy of which can be found at www.kent.ac.uk/law/downloads/lcresponse.doc. Thanks are due to postgraduate student Lucy Barnes for her notetaking of the discussion.

For further information, please contact Dr Simone Wong at s.w.y.wong@kent.ac.uk.

African NHRIs

Rachel Murray, University of Bristol, £1400

Funding was sought to visit Geneva and South Africa to obtain documents and interview relevant persons and organisations to complete a monograph on African national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and their role at the international level.

NHRIs are organisations established in particular countries by constitution or statute with promotional and protective mandates on human rights. Although some attention has been paid to these institutions in general, less detailed attention has been paid to their operation in practice. These institutions often carry out a variety of functions at the national level including advising on legislation and policy, education and awareness-raising, case work and litigation. Many of the institutions also operate at the international level and there is an increasing recognition of the importance of using this arena in their work. For example, NHRIs can give an alternative perspective to government, they can assist in monitoring states' compliance with their international obligations and can themselves assist in the development of international law. In order to facilitate their participation at the international level, NHRIs have created an International Coordinating Committee and institutions meet regularly at UN and regional fora. However, given the fact that the independence of some of these NHRIs has been questioned, many are concerned that giving them some status at the international level will simply be giving another voice to governments. As a result many of the bodies under the UN are only starting to consider what formal recognition should be given to NHRIs. Regionally, NHRIs have coordinated their efforts into geographical groupings and, in Africa, NHRIs meet regularly and have created a secretariat of African Human Rights Commissions. They have attended meetings of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and this commission has been particularly progressive in allowing some formal recognition of the role of NHRIs in its system. Despite this activity at the international and regional level, however, very little has been written on this issue as yet.

This research looks specifically at NHRIs in Africa and how they have worked through the regional conferences, their use of the regional human rights mechanisms such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and what role they can play at the UN.

While some information could be obtained from UN and other official documents and secondary literature, a comprehensive collection of such material was only possible by attending the Secretariat of the African NHRIs in South Africa and by speaking to personnel there. A visit took place to the South African Human Rights Commission in April 2006 by my research assistant, Bharat Malkani. Staff at the South African Human Rights Commission who had been involved in the Secretariat of African NHRIs were interviewed. Shortly afterwards, in mid-April 2006, I visited the UN in Geneva and attended the meeting of the International Coordinating Committee (ICC) of NHRIs annual session. The UN Human Rights Commission session was not held as usual, given its replacement by a new Human Rights Council shortly before. Attendance at the ICC, however, was a valuable opportunity to watch the meeting, speak with various persons and collect documentation. The staff at the UN National Institutions Unit were particularly helpful as were members of the commissions of Nigeria, Kenya, Ireland and others.

The material obtained from these trips has been used to finalise a forthcoming (2007) book published by Hart Publishing, *The Role of National Human Rights Institutions at the International and Regional Levels: The experience of Africa*.

I would like to thank the SLSA for providing me with the opportunity to complete this project.

Structures of professional firms

Daniel Muzio and James Faulconbridge, University of Lancaster, £1500

Law firms are often thought of and written about as a homogeneous group, as are the occupational experiences of the professionals working in these organisations. In this project, we have been attempting to challenge such ideas. In particular, through our ongoing research, we are seeking to show that law firms are managed and structured differently at both sectoral and geographical levels, resulting in divergent professional experiences for the lawyers in question. This suggests that existing accounts of professional autonomy and the effects of managerialism on legal work need refining in order to offer greater degrees of subtlety. Similarly, debates on the sustenance and importance of the legal profession in contemporary societies need to recognise the heterogeneity and complexity of the legal field and the need for multiple forms of law firms in order to serve spatially and sectorally heterogeneous clients.

The project is based on the intersection of two distinct methodological approaches. Firstly, we have built a database using secondary data sources (primarily the Lawyer Annual Surveys). This has been used to capture the most salient characteristics of the English legal field and highlights the structural heterogeneity which characterises large law firms. From this we have divided the legal field into a series of distinct categories. Whilst tentative at this point in the project, to date it seems important to recognise the difference between global firms, national full service firms, boutiques specialising in particular types of legal work, and high-street suppliers. We have identified key structural indicators of each category but also the variations within categories.

To build on this initial analysis we are now in the process of completing in the region of 20 in-depth semi-structured interviews with a range of managing partners, senior partners and associate solicitors in a number of the most distinctive firms in each category. These interviews will help to develop understanding of the operation of each type of firm, their strategy and business models and the ultimate effects on the professionals employed in terms of working conditions and individual day-to-day experiences of professional legal work. In the interviews, particular emphasis has been placed on exploring the tension between traditional notions of professional autonomy and commercial pressures that may be leading to increased use of managerial protocols. In addition the work-life balance challenges facing lawyers in different settings are also being explored. One of the most significant findings so far is the diversity of experiences of lawyers, both geographically and sectorally (magic-circle versus other London firms; London versus 'regional' firms; bulk commodity versus bespoke legal advice). In each of these strata the job of a lawyer, their autonomy, career trajectory, relationship with clients and working hours vary, whilst, ultimately, the strategic role and value-added aspects of the services provided also change considerably.

As we complete further interviews we hope to add subtlety to these arguments and further refine our understanding of the way concepts of professionalism and lawyering change over space and between firms. We are particularly interested in understanding how the need for different types of legal services in different places results in diverging strategies and practices and, as a result, how the role and practices of a 'lawyer' have multiple meanings in England.

First British-German Socio-Legal Workshop

This event was organised by Keele academics Professor Susanne Karstedt (Criminology) and Dr Bettina Lange (Law), and supported and hosted by the Research Institute for Law, Politics and Justice at Keele University, UK. About 40 participants from Germany and Britain attended the event which was designed to facilitate networking, collaborative research and exchange between the two socio-legal communities, and aimed in particular at young researchers in both countries.

The opening plenary speech was given by Dr Konstanze Plett, from the University of Bremen, on 'Some paradoxes of sexual citizenship, human rights, family and reproduction'. Lively debate about the state of socio-legal research both in Germany and the UK followed Professor Dame Hazel Genn's presentation of the recently published Nuffield report on empirical legal research in Britain. The workshop concluded with a final plenary on 'law, power and justice in the global sphere' with Erhard Blankenburg, from Amsterdam University and Christopher May from Lancaster University.

Conference streams included 'Human rights: rhetoric and action', 'Regulating for inclusion', 'Bio-ethics and body-ethics', 'Tracing intersections between law and media-culture' and 'The political economy of transnational legal regulation'. A range of papers presented at the workshop will be published in a special 2007 edition of the 'Zeitschrift für Rechtssoziologie'.

The workshop also included a session on funding researcher mobility and collaborative socio-legal research with presentations from Chris Godwin, ESRC, Michael Schuster from the German Research Association and Alfred Sawires, from the German Academic Exchange Service. Some great entertainment was provided by the James Tartaglia Jazz Band, conversations

also flowed during the Tuscan dinner and new friends and contacts were made over drinks in Professor Karstedt's house.

Plans for a second workshop are being discussed. For further information contact [e b.lange@law.keele.ac.uk](mailto:b.lange@law.keele.ac.uk).

For further information about socio-legal research in Germany see:

- Sektion Rechtssoziologie in der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie:
W www.lrz-muenchen.de/~wlm/soclaw.htm
- Vereinigung für Rechtssoziologie:
W www.rechtssoziologie.info
- Berliner Arbeitskreis Rechtssoziologie:
W www.rechtswirklichkeit.de

Bettina Lange

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- Politicising the past: indigenous scholarship and Crown Maori reparations processes in New Zealand – Richard S Hill and Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich
- 'Islamic headscarves' and the European Convention on Human Rights: an intersectional perspective – Anastasia Vakulenko
- Constructing the 'Right to the city' in Brazil – Edésio Fernandes
- Mediator neutrality: making sense of theory and practice, Hilary Astor
- Reframing medical injury? Viewing people with hemophilia as victims of cultural injustice – Michael Orsini
- Demobilisation and reintegration of ex-combatants: the Irish case in international perspective – Bill Rolston
- Not in our name? On responsibility and its disavowal – Scott Veitch

BRASS grant renewal

The ESRC BRASS Centre at Cardiff University was established in 2000–01 as a joint venture between Cardiff University's Schools of Business, City and Regional Planning, and Law. Working on Business Relationships, Accountability, Sustainability and Society (BRASS) it brought together researchers with an interest in different aspects of the social responsibility, accountability and sustainability of businesses and their relationships with other key stakeholders including customers, suppliers, investors, communities, regulators and workers.

BRASS has just come successfully through its mid-term review and has been funded for a further five years. This latest investment will take the total from all sources to date to the £10m mark. The core ESRC funding covers work on the environmental impact of business and questions of sustainable production and consumption. Within this broad agenda the centre has seven other themes designed to foster interdisciplinary work:

1. corporate social responsibility;
2. supply chain management;
3. sustainable communities and lifestyles;
4. ecological modernisation;
5. regulation, governance and space;
6. markets and marketing;
7. strategic management.

An example of the work within the core budget for the centre is its work on food standards and safety, which has given rise to a book on regulating risk in the EU/UK food system to be published in 2007 by Routledge. This sits alongside work on the regulation of bio-security including further ESRC-funded projects on foot and mouth disease and on badgers and the spread of TB in cattle.

Outside the core funding, there have been projects for Government including: exploring the role of social enterprises in waste management (DEFRA); developing indicators of sustainable development (Welsh Assembly); the regulation of nanomaterials (DTI/OSI); an evaluation of the sustainable development framework (for the Sustainable Development Commission); food industry policy development (Italian Environment Ministry); and reform of hazardous waste law (Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland).

There have also been a number of joint projects with business (Triodos Bank, Apple, Fujitsu, Biffa), NGOs (WWF, BITC, RSPB, Oxfam), professional bodies (ACCA, Chartered Institute of Marketing, Law Society, Institute of Electrical Engineers) and other agencies (Environment Agency, Irish EPA, UNDP, UNEP). One difficulty with this range of work is separating out research projects from what is better described as consultancy. The underpinning idea of an ESRC Research Centre is that over the lifetime of its grant it develops its own funding base. The temptation is to take on what are often well-funded consultancy opportunities to sustain our work programme and keep researchers in posts. Balancing such projects alongside the sort of interdisciplinary research projects that advance theoretical understandings of sustainability and corporate social responsibility is no easy task.

Postgraduate opportunities

BRASS has a number of postgraduate scholarships written into its funding programme. Because completion of doctoral work is expected in the lifetime of the centre, these will need to be filled within the next year or so. There is also funding for visitor positions written into the grant. Socio-legal scholars interested in such opportunities are invited to make contact. Details of all the BRASS research programmes are posted on the website:

www.brass.cardiff.ac.uk

Bob Lee, Co-Director

Is the Law Working? The Law Commission wants to know

The Law Commission recently launched an interactive web discussion forum which gives both key stakeholders and the public the opportunity to discuss areas of the law which are in need of reform. It can be accessed at <http://forum.lawcom.gov.uk>.

Consultation on the Commission's Tenth Programme of Law Reform began in January 2007. The web forum was set up to enable engagement with a much wider range of people than traditional means of consultation allows. Law Commission Chairman Sir Terence Etherton said: 'We are trying to improve people's lives by making the law more up-to-date and fair and are keen to identify projects which will be of real public benefit. This forum will facilitate debate and discussion on law reform in a user-friendly and accessible way thus enhancing the consultation process.' Any proposal put forward will be considered. In making decisions the commission will look at the extent to which the law is unsatisfactory and the potential benefits likely to accrue from undertaking reform. Suggestions which assist the drive for better regulation by reducing burdens on businesses and the public are of particular interest.

Public services ombudsmen and administrative justice: models, roles, methods and relationships

Brian Thompson (University of Liverpool), Trevor Buck (De Montfort University) and Richard Kirkham (University of Sheffield) have been awarded an ESRC grant of £77,115 to undertake an examination of public service ombudsmen (PSO) and make recommendations as to how PSOs should optimise their potential within the wider administrative justice system. The research will focus on PSO systems in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand and Ireland. For further details contact Brian Thompson (principal investigator) [✉](mailto:bwt@liverpool.ac.uk) Liverpool Law School, L69 7ZS; [☎ +44 \(0\)151 794 2813](tel:+441517942813);

New International Law and Theory Centre at Westminster

The Westminster International Law and Theory Centre was officially launched on 28 February 2007 with a presentation from Professor Gunther Teubner on 'Regime-collisions: the vain search for legal unity in the fragmentation of global law'

In the current moment of international fluidity, transition and fragmentation, international law is proving slow in catching up with global developments and demands for social and political justice. Legal theory is just as slow, with a widening gap between critical thinking and international legal developments. For global transformations to start making sense, the need is now compelling to connect the study of classical and new questions of international law, justice and governance with a sustained critical examination of the conceptual framework in which international law and politics are located.

The new centre brings together diverse yet overlapping strands in the study of international law. While looking at the concepts, structures, mechanics and limits of international law, the focus remains on the link between the applied and the theoretical. Drawing on existing strength in the Law School in the areas of international law, governance, criminology, human rights law and legal theory, the centre further develops and enhances research and collaboration both at a national and international level through fora such as conferences, workshops and seminars, which draw together academics, practitioners and activists. For more information contact Dr Andreas Philippopoulos-Mihalopoulos [✉ andreaspm@westminster.ac.uk](mailto:andreaspm@westminster.ac.uk).

Property issues on cohabitation breakdown

In a study funded by the ESRC, Gillian Douglas, Julia Pearce and Hilary Woodward, from the Universities of Cardiff and Bristol, tracked a group of separating cohabitants seeking help from solicitors and mediators in reaching settlements regarding their property, to investigate how they experience the legal process and how practitioners cope with this complex area of law.

The nature and style of the cohabiting relationships of those in the study were very diverse. Some couples had positively rejected marriage, whilst others had varying degrees of intention to marry. In almost half the couples, one partner had wished to marry but the other had not. Very few had investigated or knew anything about their legal position as cohabitants. Over half assumed they would have some rights stemming from the cohabitation. For half the sample, the home had been owned in joint names, and for half in the name of one partner. Cohabitants holding as joint tenants did not appear to have appreciated that, if the relationship broke down, they would be treated as having half shares, regardless of their actual financial contributions. The giving and taking in of conveyancing advice appears to have been problematic.

The mismatch between the cohabitants' perception of the issues and potential legal recourse was very marked. Major difficulties reported by family lawyers handling these cases were that: the substantive rules concerning trusts and property law as it applies to cohabitants are complex and subject to considerable legal interpretation; there is usually a lack of documentary evidence to support claims of intention and/or contribution; the procedural and costs rules are less familiar and user-friendly. Mediation was sometimes seen as an alternative for those willing to forego strict legal entitlement.

The study identified five basic scenarios where the current law produced significantly unjust results for both men and women: the woman, after a long cohabitation in which she had cared for the children, had no right to a share in the home because she had made no direct financial contribution to its acquisition; a home owned by one partner before the cohabitation was then re-mortgaged and put into joint names as a joint tenancy, effectively giving the other an equal share in the property, with no recognition of the prior ownership; one partner had contributed all or most of the finance to purchase a property in joint names but had failed to protect his or her contribution; a sole owner, who had no intention of sharing the value of the home with the partner, faced an unmeritorious claim on the property, which proved costly to defend; one partner had made significant financial contributions to the relationship and to the home owned in the other's sole name, but could not obtain any recognition of this due to lack of adequate evidence.

The study concludes that reform of the law is needed. It suggests that the Law Commission's proposed scheme would be a significant improvement on the current position, but would not address all of the problems identified. For more information, please contact Gillian Douglas at [e douglasg@cf.ac.uk](mailto:douglasg@cf.ac.uk) or Julia Pearce at [e Julia.Pearce@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Julia.Pearce@bristol.ac.uk).

Community of property regimes

2006 saw the completion of a research project into European community of property regimes, entitled 'Community of Property: a regime for England and Wales?'. The project, funded by the Nuffield Foundation, was conducted by Professor Lizzie Cooke and Dr Therese Callus of the University of Reading and Professor Anne Barlow of the University of Exeter, with the cooperation of academics and professionals from France, The Netherlands and Sweden. The findings are timely in the light of current developments in the law relating to divorce and the breakdown of cohabitation. The final report is available on request from [e e.j.cooke@reading.ac.uk](mailto:e.j.cooke@reading.ac.uk).

Launch of LSAANZ

The Law and Society Association of Australia and New Zealand (LSAANZ) was founded and incorporated in 2006 in response to a desire to set up a more permanent presence and concentration for the study of law and society. The object of the association is to promote and foster scholarship broadly focusing on the interactions and intersections between law and society. The association does this by running, in conjunction with other organisations, centres and universities, the Annual Law and Society Conference, as well as organising and running other similar events. This year the conference will be held at the Melbourne Law School from 28–30 November 2007. The Director of the Centre for Media and Communications Law at Melbourne, Andrew Kenyon, is the current president, Nan Seuffert is treasurer and Tim Peters is secretary. Members of the Executive Committee are Michael Head, Scott Mann, Marett Leiboff, Ian Duncanson, Juliet Rogers, Deirdre Howard-Wagner and Rick Mohr. For more information about LSAANZ, visit www.lsaanz.org.

Evaluation of public defenders

The findings of the evaluation of public defenders in England and Wales research project conducted by Lee Bridges, Ed Cape, Richard Moorhead and Avrom Sherr have been published. A multi-method evaluation spanning six years, the study shows that public defence offices generally operated at relatively high levels of quality, usually getting better results in the police station and higher levels of peer-reviewed quality assessment in their court work. Conversely, public defence offices were significantly more expensive than private practice. These findings come at a time when the Government is looking to criminal defence firms for efficiency savings in the context of the current review of legal aid. The report is available for download at www.legalservices.gov.uk/docs/pds/Public_Defenders_Report_PDFVersion6.pdf. For further information contact: [e moorheadr@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:moorheadr@cardiff.ac.uk)

Journal of Law & Society Special Issue 2007

'Democracy's empire: sovereignty, law and violence': (edited by Stewart Motha)

Church, state, resistance – Jean-Luc Nancy

Constitutional violence – David Bates

Sovereignty, exception, and norm – Andrew Norris

Undoing legal violence: Walter Benjamin's and Giorgio Agamben's aesthetics of pure means – Benjamin Morgan

The normality of the exception in democracy's empire – Peter Fitzpatrick and Richard Joyce

The counter-hegemonic prospects of South Africa's new social movements – Tshepo Madlingozi

The lives of death: law and violence in Iraq – Samera Esmier

Performing power: the deal, corporate rule, and the constitution of global legal order – Fleur Johns

Islamic dress, other laws, and the de-formation of the subject – Stewart Motha

Forthcoming articles: summer 2007

Governing genetic databases: challenges facing research regulation and practice – Sue Gibbons, Andrew Smart, Jane Kaye, Michael Parker and Catherine Heeney

Researching and theorizing the process of professional identity formation – Hilary Sommerlad

Public (interest) or private (gain)? The curious case of Network Rail's status – Robert Jupe

Reviewing the Nuffield Inquiry on Empirical Legal Research – Paddy Hillyard

Postgraduate opportunities

Bristol MSc in Socio-legal Studies

The socio-legal studies programme at the University of Bristol is now in its third year and thriving. Accredited by the Economic and Social Research Council, it is a taught-level Masters Course which also provides an entrée into a three-year PhD Programme in socio-legal studies (also accredited by the ESRC). The MSc offers a range of units, suitable for graduates from any discipline who have an interest in the way law works in society. The programme of study is interdisciplinary. Students take a core of three compulsory units from sociology, two further compulsory courses from law tailored specifically for socio-legal students without law backgrounds, and an optional subject that can be taken almost anywhere in the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law (and even beyond in Social Anthropology). A 10,000–15,000-word dissertation completes the programme. The programme provides a sound research training for students wishing to proceed to a career in socio-legal research through the study of different research methodologies across the social sciences and law. During the programme, students will pursue independent, in-depth study in socio-legal studies, engaging in lively debates in a thriving research culture across

social sciences and law. In the academic year of 2007–08, four '1+3 awards' (ie four-year postgraduate scholarship to pursue the MSc followed by a PhD) will be offered. The closing date this year for applications is **16 March 2007**, interviews will be held on **29 and 30 March** and **2 April 2007**. Self-funded MSc applications are accepted on a rolling basis until July 2007. Full details at: www.bris.ac.uk/law/pgdegrees.

Further questions can be addressed to [e law-pg-admissions@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:law-pg-admissions@bristol.ac.uk).

Postgraduate programmes at QUB

The Law School at QUB is home to internationally renowned research centres in Human Rights, Criminology and Criminal Justice, and Governance. Applications are invited for the following postgraduate programmes: LLM in human rights law; LLM in human rights (cross border); LLM/MSSc in human rights and criminal justice; LLM in law and governance; LLM in human rights and criminal justice (cross border); LLM in corporate governance and public policy; MSSc in criminology; MSSc in criminal justice; MLegSc masters in legal science. A number of studentships are available for outstanding research candidates. Closing date **15 April 2007**. Application forms from: School of Law, QUB, BT7 1NN [e pglawenquiries@qub.ac.uk](mailto:pglawenquiries@qub.ac.uk) www.law.qub.ac.uk [+44 \(0\)28 90973451](tel:+442890973451).

Queen Mary, University of London

Applications are invited for four PhD studentships at the 5th Department of Law, Queen Mary, commencing in October 2007. The studentships cover fees (home or overseas rates as applicable) and a maintenance grant of £14,000 per year. They are renewed annually for three years, subject to satisfactory annual progress reports, and are awarded on the basis of academic excellence.

Before applying, it is important to check that there is a member of staff available with the appropriate expertise to supervise the research. Informal enquiries are welcome (please see Law Department website for details).

Students are eligible to apply for a PhD studentship once they have received an offer of a place on the PhD programme. There are also three part-funded masters bursaries also commencing in October 2007.

The closing date for both programmes is **1 June 2007**. Decisions will be made and offers sent out on **29 June 2007**. Full details are at: www.laws.qmul.ac.uk/postgraduate. More information about the Law Department is available at www.law.qmul.ac.uk/research.

See also p7 for information on postgraduate opportunities at BRASS.

WHY JOIN THE SLSA?

The full membership fee of only £30 provides members with all the following benefits.

- **Our successful termly Socio-Legal Newsletter**
Members receive three 16-page newsletters per year and are also invited to submit news and articles for publication.
- **An entry in the new SLSA electronic research directory**
To be launched in spring 2007, this resource is for members only. They will be able to choose to include their details in this online searchable database. It is anticipated that it will be of significant value to socio-legal researchers.
- **Discounted conference fees**
Members receive a discount on the conference fee equivalent to the membership fee.
- **Access to the SLSA email network and bulletin board**
The SLSA email network and bulletin board are designed to keep members informed of SLSA news and other items of interest. Members and non-members can register for the bulletin board but only members can join the email network.
- **Eligibility for SLSA prizes**
Sponsored by Hart Publishing, the SLSA awards three annual prizes for outstanding publications in the field of socio-legal studies.

- **Eligibility for SLSA grants**

As part of its aim to support socio-legal research, the SLSA awards £8000 per year in small grants to members.

- **Eligibility for SLSA seminar competition**

A new £5000 initiative launched in 2006–07 to support seminars on any subject matter of relevance to the socio-legal community.

- **Free student membership for one year**

Our student members are eligible for free membership for one year and thereafter a reduced £10 annual membership fee while they remain students.

- **Free postgraduate conference**

The SLSA is committed to helping and supporting students who are starting out on careers in socio-legal research. To this end, we run an annual postgraduate conference at no charge and including free accommodation and subsistence.

- **Eligibility for bursaries**

Student members can apply for bursaries towards funding their attendance at the SLSA annual conference and other selected events.

- **Discounts on journal subscriptions**

A number of legal journals offer discounted subscriptions to SLSA members.

For more information, contact SLSA membership secretary Lisa Glennon [e l.glennon@qub.ac.uk](mailto:l.glennon@qub.ac.uk) or visit www.slsa.ac.uk.

SLSA POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH

Last year, SLSA student members were invited to send in short summaries of their postgraduate research projects for publication in the newsletter. The intention of this feature is to demonstrate the strength and depth of work being carried out by junior researchers. Here, we present a representative selection of submissions.

Applying the best interest of the child in a multicultural society

Children face special problems of disadvantage, neglect, discrimination and exploitation resulting in high risks of harm and placing obstacles to their development. As a result of these, there have been calls for special protection measures effectively to address these issues. Although these problems exist globally, the focus of this research is to bring to light how the best interests of the child would be ensured in a multicultural civil society like Nigeria. This is necessary because, although the country is a democratic one, children's rights are hindered by influences such as culture and religion. Some of these cultural influences have been described by international instruments, such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, as 'harmful traditional practices'. The purpose of this research is to explore the problems faced by children in Nigeria.

The thesis examines the different theories of children's rights as well as the historical evolution of those rights by looking specifically at the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The thesis acknowledges the difficulties in applying the best-interests principle in different jurisdictions

especially owing to the changing familial context of the country which is largely influenced by the tripartite family system. By way of conclusion, the thesis proposes the best approach in ensuring the effective implementation of children's rights in Nigeria.

✉ faim1@le.ac.uk *Fortune Ihu-Maduenyi*
PhD Research Student, Faculty of Law, Leicester University

The role of the Cyprus Attorney General's Office in prosecutions: rhetoric, ideology and practice

This thesis examines the role of the Cyprus Attorney General's Office (Law Office) in prosecutions. It is based on empirical data gathered during a five-month fieldwork period at the Attorney General's Office including observation, semi-structured interviews with law officers and examination of criminal files. The findings are supplemented by interviews carried out with four of the five Attorney Generals who have held office since the establishment of the Cyprus Republic (1960); and by the results of an examination of their internal circulars, press releases and documents.

The prosecution system in Cyprus, while recognising the right to private prosecutions, is based upon the primacy

of the Attorney General. The constitution entrusts the Attorney General with the overall control of all prosecutions and with powers that exceed those traditionally associated with public prosecutors in common law jurisdictions. However, the exact parameters of this broad role have not been specified in detail in respect of:

- a) the categories of cases that he is closely dealing with (in contrast to the rest of the cases where the Attorney General only exerts an overall control);
- b) the specific powers exercised regarding them (and specifically the extensive role the Attorney General acquires during investigations contrary to his common law background);
- c) the criteria/policies applied and the formulation of policies for other prosecuting agencies (particularly the police).

This study focuses on these three issues. Each of them is approached from three different angles:

- (i) the rhetoric that has been developed over time given the broad nature of the statutory legislation, combined with the manner in which succeeding Attorney Generals have approached their role;
- (ii) the ideology developed in the Law Office and, in particular, the approach of the law officers towards their role;
- (iii) the nature of the practices observed in the Law Office when discharging their prosecutorial functions.

Despina Kyprianou, Law Department, LSE

European Society of Criminology

The European Society of Criminology has agreed a proposal from the Centre for Criminological Research, University of Sheffield and the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research, University of Glasgow, to start a European Postgraduate Researchers Working Group for early stage researchers in criminology and criminal justice. We believe that there is a need for a supportive framework for this group of researchers to share experiences as they develop their academic careers. Among many issues that we discuss, the group provides the opportunity for members to present their research, and provides information on publishing work, pursuing academic/research careers, applying for research funding and working collaboratively. It is interdisciplinary, with members from various departments who are involved

in criminological research, for example law and sociological studies.

We believe that this will be a major new forum for doctoral and early stage researchers to discuss, develop and collaborate on new and innovative criminal justice research with other early stage researchers and lead/senior academics on a European level. The next meeting of the group will take place at the ESC conference in Bologna, Italy (26–29 September 2007).

For further details contact Jenny Johnstone ✉ j.johnstone@law.gla.ac.uk or Lisa Burns ✉ l.k.burns@sheffield.ac.uk for registration and poster submission forms.

- European Society of Criminology
✉ www.esc-eurocrim.org/workgroups
- Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research ✉ www.sccjr.ac.uk
- Sheffield Centre for Criminological Research
✉ www.ccr.group.shef.ac.uk

Postgraduate and Early Career Network of Scholars

Part of the work of the AHRC Research Centre for Law, Gender and Sexuality (✉ www.kent.ac.uk/clgs) is the training, development and mentoring of postgraduate students and early career academics in the field of law, gender and sexuality. Over the last two years, the centre has built up a network of around 100 postgraduate students and early career academics (PECANS) working in the law, gender and sexuality field and has recently launched the PECANS website: ✉ www.clgs-pecans.org.uk. The PECANS website is home to the PECANS Directory, a database of doctoral research projects in the LGS field, and the PECANS forum, a message board and discussion area for postgraduate and early career scholars.

The purpose of the PECANS network is to help foster links between new academics working in the LGS field, allow early career scholars to contact each

Jurisprudence of human rights and the mechanisms for protection: a comparative study of Vietnam and the United Kingdom

This research seeks to examine the jurisprudence of human rights and the mechanism for human rights protection in Vietnam and the United Kingdom: how they advance the cause of human rights under the international human rights regime and universalism while being challenged by the emergence of cultural relativism. My starting point was an exploration of the origins and development of the concept of human rights through investigating religious, moral, philosophical and legal foundations from ancient to modern times and from East to West. From this it was evident that the concept of human rights only appeared in the Western tradition in recent times, although very early ideas of human rights were apparent in the Eastern tradition. My research traces the challenges of cultural relativism over universalism in the field of human rights, especially since the emergence of so-called 'Asian values'. To examine these, the project involves a case study of Vietnam, to analyse the ways in which rights are protected under the Vietnamese social and legal system which is heavily influenced by values drawn from philosophies such as Confucianism and Buddhism. The research examines the factors influencing the development of human rights in Vietnam, taking account of legal, cultural and philosophical

traditions, and assesses how successfully or effectively international rights norms have been incorporated into the Vietnamese legal system. In order to see how the Vietnamese approach protects human rights effectively and efficiently for all individuals, the research compares and contrasts it with that of the United Kingdom. The outcome of this project is to put forward proposals for additional mechanisms for human rights protection in Vietnam. This research is still a work-in-process and all comments are welcome to Nghia Hoang [e n.hoang@mmu.ac.uk](mailto:n.hoang@mmu.ac.uk) or on [† 01612472286](tel:+441612472286).

Nghia Van Hoang, PhD research candidate, MMU School of Law

Women, murder and the construction of gender in the criminal justice system

My thesis focuses on gender constructions within the criminal justice system of women accused of murder in the period 1957–62. Murder is usually associated with male perpetrators and women who kill may be perceived as especially transgressive. The thesis addresses how particular discourses of 'appropriate' and 'deviant' femininity emerged during the different stages of the prosecution process (from investigation to trial), and how these ideas affected the women's representation as feminine subjects. My goal is to reveal the multiple and sometimes contradictory constructions of the women's identities in the cases examined, and to consider their role in

the creation and maintenance of mid-twentieth-century boundaries of normativeness, 'normality' and 'respectability'.

Most feminist research into women who kill examines women who kill their abusers or their own children and these killings account for most murders by women. My thesis considers murders by women that have often been neglected, such as the killing of other relatives or non-related children. These types of cases are highly significant symbolically because they represent examples of the most extreme violations of the cultural norms of femininity, such as gentleness and care-giving, where there do not appear to be mitigating factors such as the experience of abuse or the pressures of child-rearing. Whatever is socially marginal in terms of gender is often symbolically central to it; therefore, an examination of the 'unusual' can reveal much about how normative femininity is constructed.

I drew a sample of 13 cases from all women indicted for murder between 1957 and 1962 whose cases fitted the research criteria and who had open files held in the National Archives. The research was carried out through a discourse analysis of these files, which contained depositions, statements, police reports, psychiatric reports and partial transcripts. Newspaper reports of the cases provided additional information.

Lizzie Seal, School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol

other, find out about others with similar research interests, find information about relevant conferences and events and discuss research issues and questions. PECANS is very much an interdisciplinary network, with an international membership from across the humanities and social sciences.

The aim of the directory is to build up a database of doctoral research projects related to law, gender and sexuality. If you would like to add details of your research to the directory, please visit the PECANS website at www.clgs-pecans.org.uk and fill in the directory form. The PECANS forum is open to all, and is designed to be a place where postgraduate students and early career academics can foster research links – do join in the discussions. PECANS also operate an email list – for more information or to join the list, please email Rosie Harding on [e r.harding@law.keele.ac.uk](mailto:r.harding@law.keele.ac.uk).

Rosie Harding, Keele University

PiP Seminars - Manchester

The School of Law at the University of Manchester has recently begun holding fortnightly PiP (PhD-in-Progress) research seminars in which postgraduate research students can present their work in a friendly and informal environment. Seminars will take place on Mondays or Wednesdays at the School of Law.

The aim of the seminars is to provide a forum for early feedback on ongoing research and for discussion of novel, controversial and thought-provoking ideas resulting in regular interaction between research students and perhaps the setting up of stream-style seminars according to areas of interest. Students from other UK universities are warmly invited to participate, as speakers or participants. Budget travel expenses within the UK and, if necessary, basic accommodation will be paid for those presenting. Seminar organiser Mohammad Alramahi [† 44 \(0\)161 275 0857](tel:+441612750857) or [e m.alarhami@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:m.alarhami@manchester.ac.uk)

Journal of Legal History Student Prize 2007

The Routledge *Journal of Legal History* offers a prize of £500 for the best paper, publishable in the journal, by a person who has not previously published in, or had work accepted by, a refereed journal or similar publication.

Those interested in entering for the prize should communicate in writing with the editor at the following address: Dr Neil Jones [✉ Magdalene College, Cambridge CB3 0AG, UK](mailto:neil.jones@magdalene.cam.ac.uk)

The deadline for receipt of submissions is **1 December 2007**. The *Journal of Legal History* is a refereed journal. The refereeing process is anonymous and double blind.

For more information about the *Journal of Legal History*, please visit www.imformaworld.com/flgh.

Books . . .

Legal Norms and Normativity: An essay in genealogy (2006) Sylvie Delacroix, Hart Publishing £32/€48 242pp This book offers a 'genealogical' explanation of law's normativity. The term 'genealogical' conveys a commitment to a non-metaphysical type of enquiry. While it explains how law, as a normative phenomenon, comes about, it does not seek to ground law's normativity in anything but the context of social interaction giving rise to it. Legal normativity is brought about on a daily basis. Whether in revolutionary circumstances or in the quotidian need for judges, lawmakers or citizens to balance law's demands with those of morality or prudence, our ability to bind ourselves through law ultimately depends on our capacity to articulate a better way of living together, and to commit ourselves to it. These efforts of assessment and articulation depend, in turn, on our conception of normative agency. Assert the need to trace the truth of ethical judgments to some independent moral 'facts' conditioning their objectivity, and you will get a different understanding of what it is we are doing when we dispute law's authority in the name of moral values. Tracing the truth of moral judgements back to our own social practices not only affects the nature of disagreement; it also dramatically increases our responsibility when, as lawmakers, judges, or citizens we 'take the law into our own hands' and confront it with our moral expectations.

The European Convention on Human Rights: Achievements, problems and prospects (2006) Steven Greer, Cambridge University Press £60hb/£23.99pb 386pp This book critically appraises the European Convention on Human Rights as it faces some daunting challenges. It argues that the convention's core functions have subtly changed, particularly since the ending of the Cold War, and that these are now to articulate an 'abstract constitutional model' for the entire continent, and to promote convergence in the operation of public institutions at every level of governance. The implications – from national compliance, to European international relations, including the adjudication of disputes by the European Court of Human Rights – are fully explored. As the first book-length socio-legal examination of the convention's principal achievements and failures, this study not only blends legal and social science scholarship around the theme of constitutionalisation, but also offers a coherent set of policy proposals which both address the current case-management crisis and suggest ways forward neglected by recent reforms.

Education, Law and Diversity (2006) Neville Harris, Hart Publishing 535pp £37.50/€57 This book explores the relationship between education, law (including individual and group rights and state obligations) and various forms of social diversity. Taking a broad definition of diversity that includes factors such as ethnicity, religion, disability and social deprivation, which are variously associated with inequality, social exclusion and the risk of low educational attainment and may also reflect divergent cultural values and norms, the book seeks to explain how social diversity presents significant challenges for the state in seeking to provide an appropriate education for all. It aims to show the extent to which, in the governance of education, public education authorities are constrained by the relevant individual or group rights, including those under the European Convention on Human Rights. The nature and social impact of the relevant rights, duties and powers is considered. Areas discussed include the curriculum (including language, religion and creationism), special educational needs and choice of school. Key themes include equal access to education (including higher education), multiculturalism and children's rights.

Families and the European Union (2006) Clare McGlynn, Cambridge University Press £29.99 262pp In the first book to offer a comprehensive analysis of family law in the European Union, McGlynn argues that a traditional concept of 'family' which has many adverse effects – on individuals, on families (in all their diverse forms), and indeed on the economic ambitions of the EU – is forming the basis for the little-recognised and under-researched field of EU family law. This book examines three different aspects of family life – childhood, parenthood and partnerships – and critically analyses existing EU law in relation to each. It examines the emerging field of EU family law, providing a highly sceptical account of recent developments and a robust challenge to the arguments in favour of the codification of European civil law, including family law.

Economic and Social Rights under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights (2006) Tamara Hervey and Jeff Kenner (eds), Hart Publishing £24/€36 372pp The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union includes, in addition to the traditional civil and political rights, a large number of rights of an economic or social nature. This collection of essays by leading scholars in this field considers the significance of the inclusion of such rights within the EU Charter, in terms of protection of individual and collective social and economic interests within and between the EU and its member states. What differences might it make to EU law and policy (both in terms of its substance, and in terms of the processes by which it is formed), that certain economic and social rights are proclaimed in the EU Charter?

Consent in the Law (2007) Deryck Beyleveld and Roger Brownsword, Hart Publishing £45/€63 374pp In a community that takes rights seriously, consent features pervasively in both moral and legal discourse as a justifying reason: stated simply, where there is consent, there can be no complaint. However, without a clear appreciation of the nature of a consent-based justification, its integrity, both in principle and in practice, is liable to be compromised. This book examines the role of consent as a procedural justification, discussing the prerequisites for an adequate consent – in particular, that an agent with the relevant capacity has made an unforced and informed choice, that the consent has been clearly signalled, and that the scope of the authorisation covers the act in question. It goes on to highlight both the Fallacy of Necessity (where there is no consent, there must be a wrong) and the Fallacy of Sufficiency (where there is consent, there cannot be a wrong). Finally, the extent to which the authority of law itself rests on consent is considered. If the familiarity of consent-based justification engenders confusion and contempt, the analysis in this book acts as a corrective, identifying a range of abusive or misguided practices that variously undervalue or overvalue consent, that fictionalise it or that are fixated by it, and that treat it too casually or too cautiously. In short, the analysis in *Consent in the Law* points the way towards recognising an important procedural justification for precisely what it is as well as giving it a more coherent application.

Transforming Lives: Law and social process (2007 forthcoming) Pascoe Pleasence, Alexy Buck and Nigel Balmer (eds), TSO This edited volume will bring together a selection of papers from the Legal Services Research Centre's 2006 International Research Conference, held in Belfast. The eight papers, drawn from five countries, will explore the links between civil justice problems and health, the reasons that lie behind advice-seeking behaviour, new forms of service delivery, the broad impact of legal advice, and forms of funding for legal services.

Child Support: Law and policy (2006) Nick Wikeley, Hart Publishing £35/€52.50 616pp This book analyses the current child support legislation in its broader historical and social context, synthesising both doctrinal and socio-legal approaches to legal research and scholarship. It draws on the historical and legal literature on the Poor Law and the development of both the public and private law obligation of child maintenance. Modern child support law must also be considered in the context of both social and demographic changes and in the light of popular norms about child maintenance liabilities. The main part of the book is devoted to an analysis of the modern child support scheme, and the key issues are addressed: the distinction between applications in 'private' and 'benefit' cases and the extent to which the courts retain a role in child maintenance matters; the basis for, and the justification for, the exception from the obligation for parents with care on benefit to co-operate with the Child Support Agency where they fear 'undue harm or distress'; the assessment of income for the purposes of the formula and the evidential difficulties this entails; the tension between the formula, which ignores the parent with care's income, and the demands of distributive justice; the further conflict between the formula, under which liability is capped only for the very wealthy, and the traditional approach of private law, which is premised on children being entitled to maintenance rather than a share in family wealth; the treatment of special cases under the formula by way of 'variations' (formerly 'departures'); the nature of decision-making and the scope for appeals; and the efficacy of the provisions relating to collection and enforcement.

Atiyah's Accidents: Compensation and the law, 7th edn (2006) Peter Cane and Patrick Atiyah, Cambridge University Press £25.99 550pp Since its first publication, this book has been recognised as the leading treatment of the law of personal injuries compensation and the social, political and economic issues surrounding it. The new edition explores recent momentous changes in personal injury law and practice and puts them into perspective. Most significantly, it examines developments affecting the financing and conduct of claiming: the abolition of legal aid for most claims; the increasing use of conditional fee agreements and after-the-event insurance; the meteoric rise and impending regulation of the claims management industry. Complaints that Britain is a 'compensation culture' suffering an 'insurance crisis' are investigated. New statistics on tort claims are discussed, providing fresh insights into the evolution of the tort system which remains deeply flawed and ripe for radical reform.

... journals ...

Bronwen Morgan, Bristol University, has just co-edited, together with Professor Frank Trentmann from Birkbeck College, a special issue for the *Journal of Consumer Policy* on 'The politics of necessity'. This issue (29(4): 345-487), published in December 2006, aims to link four bodies of literature: inquiries into consumer politics and commodification; questions of international development; sociological debates about routine or 'ordinary' consumption; and historical explorations of the centrality of 'necessities' in the formation of modern social movements and the democratic imagination. Water and energy are utilised as the principal material forms for tracing and comparing the development of the politics of necessity. The volume has seven articles and an introductory essay by the editors, including two articles by SLSA members Bronwen Morgan and Cosmo Graham. It is divided into three sections moving from history and philosophy, to the role of consumers, and finally to governance contexts both of national states and more globally. Each section highlights the different implications of the discussion for developed and developing countries, as well as their interdependence.

... COMPAS ...

The Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) at the University of Oxford conducts high quality research to develop theory, inform public opinion and evaluate policy. Forthcoming publications for 2007 include: S Vertovec (2007), *Transnationalism*, Routledge; K Charsley (2007) 'Risk, trust, gender and transnational cousin marriage among British Pakistanis', *Ethnic and Racial Studies* (special issue edited by Steven Vertovec on 'New directions in the anthropology of migration and multiculturalism'); and R Andrijasevic (forthcoming) 'The spectacle of misery: gender, migration and representation in anti-trafficking campaigns', *Feminist Review*. Recent 2006 publications included F Düvell (2006) *Europäische und internationale Migration. Theorie, Empirie, Geschichte*, Lit, Münster; and Biao Xiang (2006) *Global 'Body Shopping': An Indian International Labor System in the Information Technology Industry*, Princeton University Press.

... and DCA reports

A Trouble Shared: Legal Problems Clusters in Solicitors' and Advice Agencies (2006) Richard Moorhead and Margaret Robinson, Cardiff Law School, Cardiff University and Matrix Research and Consultancy This report examines whether and how clients of 12 solicitor firms and advice agencies present with multiple problems (clusters) and how these are dealt with. The research utilised a multi-method approach including: structured observation of 178 interviews between advisers and clients; structured interviews with advisers on 487 additional cases; and 35 semi-structured interviews with advisers about clients with multiple problems and surrounding service-delivery issues. Fifty-eight clients were interviewed about their experiences shortly after the interview, a further 36 of these clients were re-interviewed about their cases three or four months later to get a stronger sense of how their cases had developed. The research investigates the intersectionality of social and legal problems and the advice strategies of providers (specialists and generalists). Clients' legal and social needs interrelate and amplify and advice strategies depend significantly on institutional contexts for advice and individual dispositions and skills of advisers. The report also identified a number of triggers for legal need, with the most common cause of advice-seeking being the action or inaction of the local authority. Of the clients observed, 37 per cent had problems with local authorities. Ideas of holism and seamlessness in advice services are also critically scrutinised. Full report at www.dca.gov.uk/research/2006/08_2006excsun.pdf.

Child Care Proceedings under the Children Act 1989 (2006) Julia Brophy, University of Oxford (DCA 5/06) This is a review of empirical studies of child care proceedings, and was commissioned as a briefing paper for the Child Care Proceedings Review. Key findings include the seriousness of the cases which come before the courts, involving vulnerable parents often with health problems and chaotic lifestyles. The proceedings included inquisitorial features, ie Practice Directions and Protocols. Most children were in a settled placement within 12 months of the hearing.

Making Contact Happen or Making Contact Work? The process and outcomes of in-court conciliation (2006) Liz Trinder, Jo Connolly, Joanne Kellet, Caitlin Notley and Louise Swift, UEA (DCA 3/06) This presents the findings from a study of the effectiveness of three different models of in-court conciliation. Based on 250 interviews with parents at baseline and 175 at a six-month follow-up, it reports on: agreement rates; satisfaction with the conciliation process; satisfaction with agreements and outcome of the case; agreement durability and relitigation; and impact on contact patterns, contact problems, shared decision-making and parent and child wellbeing.

● **ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

Brussels: 16-17 March 2007

To explore manners, mechanisms and fora in which accountability can be realised for violations of human rights committed by, or attributable to, international organisations and their staff. Enquiries to Eva Brems, Ghent University: e eva.brems@ugent.be.

● **UACES CONFERENCE: REFLECTIONS ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION**

23-24 March 2007: Locarno Room, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, London

Coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome in 1957, this UACES conference, co-funded by the European Commission and hosted by the FCO, will provide an occasion for reflection on the evolution of European integration over the last 50 years and the dynamics that have underpinned this evolution. As well as leading politicians and officials past and present, speakers will include leading academics from politics, law and economics from Europe and the United States. Receptions are planned for each day of the conference, as well as a book exhibition. w www.uaces.org

● **WHY CRIMINAL LAW?**

29 March 2007: British Academy, London

A British Academy discussion evening with Antony Bottoms, FBA, University of Cambridge, Barbara Hudson, University of Central Lancashire, and Robert Sullivan, University of Birmingham. Chair: Onora O'Neill, President, British Academy. Discussion convened by Antony Duff, FBA, University of Stirling and Claire Grant University of London 6.15pm to 7.45pm, followed by a drinks reception.

If Churchill was right that 'the mood and temper of the public in regard to the treatment of crime and criminals is one of the most unflinching tests of the civilisation of any country', we must wonder about how well Britain would fare by that test at a time when prison numbers are still rising, when the criminal law is expanding without any apparent principled control, and when the political rhetoric of 'the war on crime' encourages a transition to a war on criminals. We urgently need a renewed, informed public debate about the proper purposes, and limits, of the criminal law in a liberal democracy.

w www.britac.ac.uk/events/2007/crimlaw-debate/index.html
t 020 7969 5238 e externalrelations@britac.ac.uk

● **POLICING AND DEFENDING IN A POST-PACE WORLD**

29 March 2007: UWE, Frenchay Campus, Bristol

Jointly organised by the Criminal Justice Research Unit, UWE and the Law and Policy Research Unit, Bristol University. A one-day conference to bring together academics, defence lawyers, police officers and policy-makers to examine the critical questions and issues surrounding PACE, 21 years on. National and international speakers from diverse academic and practice backgrounds will systematically scrutinise different aspects of PACE in the context of policy and legal developments, and research evidence. Speakers will also consider whether the particular approach to regulation embodied in PACE has been effective, and whether it forms an adequate basis for regulation in the future. e susan.harris@uwe.ac.uk.

● **TRANS/INTERSEX ISSUES AND THE LAW**

17-18 April 2007: Keele University

The workshop brings together eight leading UK scholars within the fields of transgender and intersex scholarship. The eight papers to be delivered will consider a variety of theoretical issues pertaining to transgender and intersex people and their encounters with medicine and law. These will include consideration of (trans)gender theory, diversity, citizenship, identity and equality. The workshop will connect these various themes to two main research questions. First, what implications does contemporary transgender/intersex scholarship have for thinking about the concepts of 'sex' and 'gender' and their interrelationship? Second, what lessons can be learned concerning the dilemma that is law reform through an analysis of transgender/intersex struggle?

w www.keele.ac.uk/research/lpj/transgenderworkshop/index.htm

● **SOCIETY OF LEGAL SCHOLARS & BRITISH ACADEMY: CRIMINAL LIABILITY FOR NON-AGGRESSIVE DEATH**

19-20 April 2007, New Hall, Oadby, University of Leicester

The purpose of this conference is to consider whether all cases where death has been caused unintentionally should be classified as manslaughter or whether there should be several specific offences covering such killings. The main issue is whether offences such as causing death by dangerous driving should be retained and whether further specific offences covering corporate killings, medical killings and killings through the illegal supply of drugs should be introduced. For further information please contact Dr Sally Cunningham e sally.cunningham@le.ac.uk. w www.le.ac.uk/law

● **GLOBAL HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES**

19-20 April 2007: Institute of Law Medicine and Bioethics, University of Liverpool

This conference is part of the ESRC Research Seminar Series on Global Health and Human Rights Theory, Process and Substance. Convenors: Dr Maria Stuttaford and Professor Gillian Lewando Hundt, University of Warwick, and Professor John Harrington, University of Liverpool. w www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/cross_fac/healthatwarwick

● **GRADUATE CENTRE FOR EUROPE PG CONFERENCE**

19-21 April 2007: University of Birmingham

The theme of the conference is intentionally broad – The Future of Europe: Identity, History, Politics and Culture. It will focus on how Europe's existing structures and practices may evolve in the coming few years and how these may, in turn, be influenced by its cultural and historical heritage. Whilst the EU's response to the failure of its first attempt to reshape its structure following a phase of massive enlargement offers an obvious starting point for the discussion, the conference is not limited either in its objectives or to the geographical boundaries of the EU. What it intends to encourage is an open-minded approach to how others see topics that we often consider as embedded in our own discipline. The conference will bring together lawyers, political scientists, economists, geographers, linguists, literature specialists, social scientists and historians. Conference organiser Nicola Corkin e eurograd@contacts.bham.ac.uk

● **ALIENS AND NATIONS: CITIZENSHIP, SOVEREIGNTY AND GLOBAL POLITICS IN THE 21st CENTURY: Call**

19-21 April 2007: Keele University, UK

The UK Association for Legal and Social Philosophy (ALSP) conference aims to stimulate debate about the nation-state. Keynote speakers: Seyla Benhabib; Stephen Macedo; Bhikhu Parekh; Andy Dobson; Judith Squires. Global crime networks and international terrorists, for instance, defy the executive will of nation-states, while states' integrity seems sapped by porous borders, cultural conflict and breakaway or irredentist movements. These problems hit failed states hardest, but often defeat even well-ordered polities. At the same time, supra-national bodies have proved largely impotent against the global challenges of climate change, capital mobility, nuclear proliferation, the AIDS pandemic, human rights abuses, and trafficking in drugs, weapons and persons. Contributors are invited to consider the role of Details at w www.keele.ac.uk/research/lpj/alsp

● **CENTRE LGS: POSTGRADUATE & EARLY CAREER WORKSHOP**

26-27 April 2007: Westminster University

Full details of the workshop – which will include practical sessions on 'The Writing Process', 'Career Pathways' and 'How (not) to be a Job Applicant' – are available on the PECANS website. w www.clgs-pecans.org.uk

● **UCC POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

3 May 2007: Centre for Criminal Justice and Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University College Cork

This one-day international conference will attract postgraduate research scholars whose work pertains to criminal justice and human rights. In addition to exploring topics specific to the scholarship of criminal justice or human rights, the conference aims to consider the intersections of both fields.

w www.ucc.ie/law/postgradconference2007

- **BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR CANADIAN STUDIES, LEGAL STUDIES GROUP: INTERNATIONAL ONE-DAY CONFERENCE**

22 June 2007: Canada House, London

Canadian and British Perspectives in Legal History: Commonalities and Departures. Keynote speaker: Professor Wesley Pue, University of British Columbia. The conference organisers welcome proposals for papers in any area of British or Canadian legal history, but would especially welcome those with a comparative element.

Proposals should be sent to Dr Charlotte Smith
e c.l.smith@reading.ac.uk, accompanied by a 200-word abstract, by Friday 23 March 2007.

www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/organisations/canadian

- **WG HART LEGAL WORKSHOP 2007 ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

26-28 June 2007: Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London

Academic Directors: Professor Michael Zander, Emeritus Professor, London School of Economics and Professor Avrom Sherr, Director, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies.

www.ials.sas.ac.uk/events/wghart_2007.htm

- **JOURNAL OF PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW CONFERENCE 2007: Call**

26-27 June 2007: University of Birmingham

The editors invite submissions for two presentation categories. Academic Conference Papers should be submitted to Jonathan Harris e j.m.harris.law@bham.ac.uk. Postgraduate Research Papers should be submitted to Martin P George e mpg514@bham.ac.uk. For full details go to: www.law.bham.ac.uk/conflicts.

- **ANZCA Conference 2007**

5-6 July 2007 Melbourne Law School

The conference theme is Communications, Civics, Industry and featured topics include: the role of public service media; new media distribution technologies in communication PR, advertising and civil society; and organisational, interpersonal and intercultural communication. There will also be a plenary panel on the Research Quality Framework and an associated seminar entitled, Public Service Broadcasting in Asia-Pacific on 7 July 2007. The Australian and New Zealand Communications Association 2007 conference is supported by the CMCL at the University of Melbourne and the Media Studies Program at La Trobe University. www.law.unimelb.edu.au/cmcl.

- **RIGHTS, ETHICS, LAW & LITERATURE INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM**

6-8 July 2007: School of Law, Swansea University

Plenary speakers: Professor Richard Weisberg and Professor Desmond Manderson

This colloquium aims to bring together scholars expert in the intersections between law, literature, ethics and rights, to further debate on matters of current social, political and ideological importance. The colloquium is being organised by Professor Melanie Williams and Dr Bebhinn Donnelly. Supported by the School of Law Swansea University and the Law and Humanities Institute.

www.lawandlitswansea.co.uk + 44 (0) 1792 513511

- **CENTRE LGS: GENDER UNBOUND**

9-11 July 2007: Keele University

An international, inter-disciplinary conference in the area of law, gender and sexuality, broadly defined. Plenary speakers: Hazel Carby, Sander Gilman, Rosemary Hennessy, Carol Smart, Sylvia Tamale.

www.kent.ac.uk/clgs/events/genderunbound.htm

- **EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE: CONFLICT, CITIZENSHIP AND CIVIC SOCIETY**

Glasgow: 3-7 September 2007

Co-ordinator: Ellen Kuhlmann e e.kuhlmann@zes.umi-brennb.de.

www.esa8thconference.com

- **SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON EMPIRICAL LEGAL STUDIES: Call**

9-10 November 2007: New York University Law School

The conference will feature original empirical and experimental legal scholarship by leading scholars from a diverse range of fields. Call closes: 1 July 2007.

www.law.nyu.edu/cels

- **FORTHCOMING EVENTS AT COMPAS**

The Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS) at the University of Oxford conducts high quality research to develop theory, inform public opinion and evaluate policy.

Seminar Series Hilary Term 2007: 'Migration on the Fringes of Europe: Trends, Patterns, Transformation'. Convenor: Dr Franck Düvell. The seminars are open to everyone and will be held on Thursdays at 14.00 to 15.30, seminar room ☒ Institute of Human Sciences, Pauling Centre, 58a Banbury Road, Oxford.

www.compas.ox.ac.uk/events/seminars_lectures.shtml.

COMPAS Annual Conference 2007: 5-6 July 2007, Oxford.

www.compas.ox.ac.uk

- **IALS FREE PUBLIC LECTURES:**

March-May 2007: Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London

12 March 2007, 6pm: Lawyers and Dispute Resolution: What Next?

15 March 2007, 6pm: The Market in Illicit Antiquities and the Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003.

19 March 2007, 6pm: King and Country: Monarchy and the Future King Charles III

22 March 2007, 6pm: Measuring the Efficacy of a SARs Regime

28 March 2007, 5.30pm: Book Launch of *Whistleblowing: Law and Practice*

30 April 2007, 6pm: Ministers and the Judiciary – Much Rattling of Blunt Sabres

9 May 2007, 6pm: Cultural Property and the Repatriation Debates

23 May 2007, 6pm: From Hogarth to Dickens: Identifying Stakeholders in 18th and 19th Century Copyright Law and Policy

24 May 2007, 6pm: Financial Crimes and Financial Misdemeanours - The Dangers in Treating All in the Same Way

8 June 2007, afternoon seminar: The Legal History of Contract Law

21 June 2007, 6pm: Recent Judicial Interpretation of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006

Contact: Belinda Crothers, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, 17 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DR. e ials.events@sas.ac.uk

- **CENTRE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN CONFLICT**

Spring Seminar and Lecture Series 2007: University of East London

14 March 2007: Accountability of Rebel Groups in the International Law of Armed Conflict: Lessons from Congo's War

21 March 2007: Coming out in Arabic: Islam, Human Rights and Gay Rights

18 April 2007: Terrorism, National Security and the Protection of Human Rights

All seminars will take place on Wednesdays at 4:30-6:00 pm, Duncan House, Room 110. www.uel.ac.uk

- **GENDER AND MIGRATION IN 21ST CENTURY EUROPE: WORKSHOP SERIES**

Feminist Legal Research Unit of the Liverpool Law School

This final two workshops explore: 'The impact of migration on women's careers' (14 March 2006); and 'Gender perspectives on forced migration' (25 April). Further details at:

www.liv.ac.uk/law/flru. Alternatively, email Helen Stalford to book a place e stalford@liv.ac.uk.